

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 /122 W
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R 280420Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6904

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 1074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CU, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION TO CUBA

REF: (A) STOCKHOLM 124, (B) STOCKHOLM 624 (NOTAL)

1. EIGHTEEN-MEMBER SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION HEADED BY TRADE MINISTER CARL LIDBOM AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT HOLDING COMPANY (STATSFORETAG), ALFA LAVAL, SALEHS, ESSELTE, GRANGES, AND VOLVO MARIN, HAS RETURNED TO SWEDEN AFTER WEEK'S VISIT IN CUBA FEBRUARY 15-20.

2. UNPUBLISHED JOINT "AIDE MEMOIRE" DATED FEBRUARY 20, PROVIDED BY MFA OFFICER ULF LEVIN, CONTAINS IN ADDITION TO FACTS, SEVERAL UNILATERAL STATEMENTS BY BOTH SIDES, NOT AGREED UPON.

A/M REPORTS "CUBAN DELEGATION STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF
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INCREASING TRADITIONAL EXPORTS OF SUGAR TO SWEDEN AT

STABLE PRICES AND QUANTITIES" AND NOTES THAT "CUBAN DELEGATION FURTHER STATED ITS INTEREST IN DEVELOPING EXPORTS TO SWEDISH MARKET OF NICKEL, AS WELL AS RUM, MOLASSES AND TOBACCO." SWEDISH STATEMENT, READING LIKE ADVERTISEMENT, LISTS NUMEROUS INDUSTRIAL SECTORS IN WHICH SWEDISH EXPORTERS ARE "WELL EQUIPPED" TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR TECHNOLOGY, PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT OF CUBAN FIVE YEAR PLAN.

3. A/M NOTES THAT SWEDISH-CUBAN TRADE AGREEMENT WAS EXTENDED DURING VISIT. LEVIN SAID EXTENSION ASSURES SWEDEN CONTINUED MFN TREATMENT FROM CUBA, WHICH HAS ARTICLE XXXV (1) (B) RESERVATION WITH RESPECT TO SWEDEN AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES UNDER GATT. RESERVATION, IN ABSENCE OF THIS AGREEMENT, WOULD ASSERT CUBA'S NONCONSENT TO APPLICATION OF GATT WITH SWEDEN.

4. LEVIN SAID SWEDEN LOOKS FORWARD ONLY TO MODEST INCREASE OF ITS SMALL TRADE WITH CUBA AS RESULT OF VISIT. NEVERTHELESS, A/M RECORDS SWEDISH INTEREST IN SENDING DELEGATION OF BUSINESSMEN TO CUBA LATER THIS YEAR TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DETAIL PROJECTS IN WHICH SWEDES MIGHT PARTICIPATE. ARTICLE IN STOCKHOLM DAILY SVENSKA DAGBLADET FEBRUARY 25 QUOTED KARL-ERIK SVEDBERG, DIRECTOR OF SWEDISH EXPORT CREDIT BOARD AS REGRETTING SCARCITY OF SWEDISH CREDITS AND COMMENTING THAT CUBANS CANNOT BUY CAPITAL GOODS FROM SWEDEN WITHOUT THEM. ARTICLE NOTED GENERAL IMPRESSION AMONG DELEGATION THAT CONTRACTS WILL DEPEND UPON SWEDEN'S ABILITY TO OFFER FAVORABLE CREDIT TERMS.

5. A/M NOTES THAT SWEDISH DELEGATION MET WITH CUBAN PRESIDENT OSVALDO DORTICOS TORRADO, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MARCELO FERNANDEZ FONT, MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL BANK RAUL LEON TARRAS, AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER AGNEL GOMEZ TRUEBA. LIDBOM WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER RAUL ROA GARCIA. FERNANDEZ FONT ACCEPTED LIDBOM'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INVITATION TO VISIT SWEDEN; NO DATE HAS BEEN SET.

6. ACCORDING TO ERIK BRAUNERHJELM, TRADE POLICY DIRECTOR FOR SWEDISH FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIES, WHO, ALTHOUGH NOT MEMBER OF DELEGATION, IS WELL PLUGGED IN, LIDBOM "RATHER SHARPLY" MADE POINT OF EXPLAINING TO CUBANS THAT SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DID NOT AT ALL LIKE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. EXCHANGE

WAS SO LIVELY THAT CUBANS REPORTEDLY ENDED IT BY
SAYING, IN EFFECT, "OKM LET'S AGREE TO DISAGREE."
STRAUSZ-HUPE'

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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